Hiking up the Camels Hump 2016 Annual Meeting. Photo by Sybil Ackerman-Munson

CGBD ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Dear friends,

In June, we gathered on the shores of Lake Champlain for our annual members' meeting. At the end, we braided some of the speakers' most memorable lines into a poem—with special thanks to Red Constantino, who traveled the farthest to bring us the closest and seemed to only speak in poetry.

We need to be brave enough to name what is coming our way.
The arc of the physical world is short and bends towards heat.
And this is the year that everything we worried about is happening.
We can't wait for the forest to turn black and the ocean to boil to take action.
The future is here.
What do we need to bring?
Ice cream and a bicycle.
A map to find the way home.
What do we need to know?
Are we telling the story we want to tell?
Because we are re-writing the history of the world.
And it's late in the fourth quarter.
It's time to fight a lot and hard and send an invitation to belong.

Looking forward to an active 2017,

Lynn Lohr
Executive Director

Dear fellow members,

2016. We began the year on such a high, carrying home from France the news of the Paris Climate Agreement. Other momentous announcements followed, including one timed to celebrate the World Conservation Congress–that of the creation of the largest protected area anywhere on Earth—a half-million-square-mile arc of Pacific waters. A newly enlarged "blue park."

CGBD members through their grantees were part of these historic moments and many other related acts of conservation, restoration and community—whether you made sure the kids in your city got to experience a national park, or you funded to protect watersheds, wild places, and environmental defenders.

Like me, you used the CGBD and its webinars and convenings, to build and cement relationships, to launch collaboratives, to ground-truth decisions, to celebrate our NGO partners.

The work we do every day is blessed because we can learn and grow together. With no time or inclination to let up, we move into 2017. Use your network. My in-box is always open for suggestions. Let me know what else we can do together, better. lisa@campionfoundation.org

Happy to be your board president,

Lisa Jaguzny
CEO
Campion Foundation
CGBD Board President

Convenings

2016 was a year of cooperation, growing attendance, and good reviews.

February: Holding Civil Space for the Environment, Pocantico Center
Co-sponsored with Pivot Point
"The Prevent/Protect/Reveal/Redress framework is very helpful."

March: Gulf of California and Mexico Funders Retreat, Ensenada, Mexico
"This helps me to think more strategically, cultivate links with other funders, and eventually have collaborative activities."

March: Marine Conservation Program Meeting, Savannah
"So much experience in the room - it is great to tap that as a resource."

April: Climate and Energy Funders Group, Washington, DC
"Always a fabulous opportunity to meet other funders and everyone always seems very open to sharing and collaborating on new ideas and initiatives."

May: Funders of the Amazon Basin Meeting, Chicago
"Great group, preparation and focus."

June: CGBD Annual Members Meeting, Vermont
"The thinking that went into the program [led] to a dynamic and substantive agenda rich with thought-provoking ideas."

August: Western Water Briefing, Strategies for Water Resilience, San Diego
Co-sponsored with Confluence Philanthropy, Environmental Grantmakers Association, and The Funders' Network
"Both invigorating and informative to have so many investors, investment advisors, and water experts together."

October: CEFG Northeast Regional Meeting, Boston
Co-sponsored with Environmental Grantmakers Association
"Great speakers. I loved that transportation was woven into it."

November: Funder Briefing on Freshwater, Denver
Co-sponsored with Environmental Grantmakers Association, The Funders' Network
"Participants were deeply engaged in finding common ground …we need to continue to identify and support the moral, inspirational, and effective leadership that wins short-term campaigns and seeds long-term movements."

Funder Briefing on Freshwater. Photo by Linda Ann Smith

Funders in working group at the Annual Meeing. Photo by Steven Whitney

“There is never anything in these meetings that I don’t find effective. Even those areas in which I don’t directly work on or fund always have a component that I find worthwhile.”

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In each of its programs, in 2016, the CGBD worked to validate member support—“The CGBD brings conservation funders together in such an efficient, member-informed manner to cultivate collaboration, share learning and coordinate on problems of mutual concern.”

- A new, pooled fund with current resources of $235,000 was organized with a goal to keep environmental defenders safe. Grantmaking will begin in 2017.
- A record number of foundations attended and supported grantee attendance at the quadrennial IUCN World Conservation Congress.
- EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy inspired and informed funders of federal opportunities at the Climate and Energy Funders Group Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.
- CEFG’s Northeast regional briefing gave funders an experiential learning opportunity through a trip to the first offshore wind farm in the US.
- Funders of the Amazon Basin formed a Colombian Amazon working group with the goal of continuing to explore national park expansion and other cross cutting issues in the region.
- The Gulf of California and Mexico Funders worked with Mexican partners to improve security training for grantees and helped organize a crucial workshop on the endangered vaquita.
- The Land and Freshwater Conservation Program helped build the framework and process for freshwater funders to collaborate across many issue areas in new ways and combinations.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Members Meeting, June 13-16, Basin Harbor Club, had as its theme, “Ecology and Economy: Rethinking Our Future.” 120 members, speakers, friends and family gathered on the shores of Lake Champlain in Vermont for four days of new economy discussions, inspiring field trips, accelerated hiking, a newly founded book discussion group, and cultivated collaboration building. Some speakers were poetic, many were sobering, almost all were provocative.

The 2016 Annual Meeting Planning Committee delivered a highly rated event. Co-chairs Jenny Russell, Merck Family Fund, and Bruce Lourie, Ivey Foundation, were ably flanked by Deborah Burke, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Christy Loper, Educational Foundation of America, Andrea Moffatt, Ivey Foundation, Anji Moraes, Paul G. Allen Foundation, and Traci Romine, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. In addition, local funders Gaye Symington, High Meadows Fund, and Karen Harris, John Merck Fund, helped us locate the best of Vermont, from a ground-breaking farm providing work and community for refugees to artisanal cider in a solar-powered setting.

Outcomes from the 2016 annual meeting include the launch of the new Environmental Defenders pooled fund, inspired in part by the Academy “Keeping Environmental Defenders Safe and Civil Society Open” and a sub-group of funders working together on new economy and equity issues.

Lake Champlain Waterway Tour at CGBD Annual Meeting. Photo by Jon Jensen

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

The group continues to promote activities to **Keep Environmentalists Safe** and Civil Society Open. In February, in tandem with the nonprofit consulting firm Pivot Point the CGBD hosted a briefing for funders and NGOs at The Pocantico Center in Tarrytown, New York. A new frame was developed to consider strategies—"Prevent, Protect, Reveal, Redress" and a webinar series stemming from the meeting launched in November, co-sponsored with the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA), The International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG) and the International Funders of Indigenous Peoples (IFIP). A new, pooled fund was proposed.

With the **2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress** hosted by Hawaii in September, the CGBD, through a series of pre- and post-Congress conference calls, helped funders make connections and pinpoint the most relevant sessions. The CGBD also produced a popular workshop that gave a behind the scenes look at six member grantor-grantee pairs on subjects as varied as exit strategies to capacity building. Five member foundations and CGBD hosted an event that underscored the vitality of activists from far-flung geographies, with more than 200 grantees in attendance.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY FUNDERS GROUP (CEFG)

The 2016 CEFG Annual Meeting in Washington DC, in April, with more than 100 funders in attendance, featured an in-depth look at the Clean Power Plan, next steps in fulfillment of the Paris Agreement, work with conservatives, utility business model reform, and national security, to name only a few of the topics in a very successful meeting.

Climate and energy funders convened in Boston on October 21 for a **Northeast Regional Meeting** to discuss updates and opportunities for progress in the Northeast region. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy spoke; emphasizing that addressing the climate challenge is an opportunity to address poverty.

On October 20th, in advance of the Northeast meeting, a group of about 50 funders and advocates were part of a **Funders Offshore Wind Tour,** embarking from Narragansett, Rhode Island for an up-close view of the first offshore wind farm in the United States. Block Island will be entirely powered by wind energy, with the excess being sold into Rhode Island.

CEFG continued to convene working groups, **Powering the Future,** and **Energy Efficiency**, and one on the **Clean Power Plan**. CEFG held webinars on SunRise: Models for Scaling Solar, Green Group Transition Project, Climate and Health: CoBenefits Funding, and co-sponsored other webinars. A **monthly news digest** highlights subjects of interest to funders.

MARINE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In Savannah, March 21-24, the CGBD convened its **annual Marine Conservation meeting**. 42 funders attended with several new foundations represented. The meeting received one of the highest rankings of this Program's annual gatherings. Among topics: funder collaboration in many settings from the Arctic to battling shipping emissions; strategic planning and changes in foundation directions; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; lessons in marine protected area management globally; new technologies in support of conservation; and knowledge services. The final session resulted in a small group continuing throughout the year to look at the creation of a new knowledge portal.

This summer, with the assistance of The Ocean Foundation, the Program completed its **annual marine grantmaking conservation funding survey.** This was the 13th year the survey has been conducted. The results of the annual survey provide information on the strategies, issues and level of grantmaking of members; allow funders to compare their marine grantmaking programs with others; and assist Program members as they look for potential partners in collaborative funding.

The survey asks Program members to list partnerships or collaborative projects that originated or were nurtured at the 2016 Program meeting in Georgia or other Program events. A webinar in September released the survey results and the final report was made available on the CGBD website to all Program participants.

LAND AND FRESHWATER PROGRAM

The CGBD was a co-sponsor of an August **Western Water Briefing, "Strategies for Water Resilience,"** with Confluence Philanthropy as the lead organizer. Other co-sponsors included EGA, and The Funders' Network (TFN). Participants came together in San Diego to discuss both grantmaking and impact-investing strategies as tools to promote long-term water sustainability and immediate responses to mitigate a scarcity crisis. Together, they sought to identify investable high-impact responses.

The planning committee included institutions/institutions involved in planning the November freshwater briefing described below, so there was significant coordination between the two events.

Welcome to our New Members in 2016

Alexander Foundation

Harold K. L. Castle Foundation

Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation

Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

Knobloch Family Foundation

New York Community Trust

Partners for a New Economy

Rockefeller Foundation

The Volgenau Foundation

In response to the growing eagerness by local, regional and national funders to engage on the issue, the CGBD, EGA, and TFN hosted a funder briefing on freshwater policy and management in the United States in November in Denver. The briefing provided an opportunity for grantmakers to share their experiences and to identify commonalities in their work on freshwater conservation, regardless of differing geographic or topical foci. The briefing program explored ways in which freshwater funders might enhance coordination and collaboration. As background for this briefing, **fifteen case studies were developed to explore recent collaborative initiatives related to freshwater issues.** The report, "Freshwater Case Studies-Exploring Effective Advocacy and Collaboration Approaches" was distributed to attendees.

GULF OF CALIFORNIA AND MEXICO FUNDERS PROGRAM

The 2016 **annual meeting** was held in the Ensenada, Baja Calfornia area in March. Sessions highlighted advocacy and grassroots movements, a pipeline for environmental leadership, impact assessment, enforcement, a mapping exercise, and preliminary results from the **annual grantmaking survey.**

CGBD assisted the Marisla Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in **convening a special meeting of funders and NGOs on the endangered vaquita** in July in LaJolla. Currently, an estimated 30 individuals remain of the species due to illegal poaching of another endangered species, the totoaba fish, which is in high demand in China.

GOC program **webinars take place monthly.** 2016 featured presentations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on two different programs supporting conservation work in Mexico, the NAWCA program (wetlands and migratory birds) and the Wildlife Without Borders program; updates on the various Coastkeepers and Baykeepers in Baja California, and a presentation on the December COP in Cancun on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

A **weekly news digest** updates foundations on conservation topics relevant to Mexico, with a focus on Gulf of California and the Yucatan Penisula.

FUNDERS OF THE AMAZON BASIN

This newest CGBD program held its **annual meeting in May** at the MacArthur Foundation offices. The agenda included regional political and economic context sharing; evaluations and lessons learned; strategy development; and the exploration of complementarity and work groups.

FAB conference calls take place monthly. Among the topics have been updates on the political/economic situation in Brazil and Peru. Two **webinars** were produced in 2016 including one on the ramifications of the Colombian peace process and implications for environment and conservation. A twice-monthly news digest is distributed.

A **working group** has been formed to reach out to a broader set of civil society actors in the **Colombian Amazon** and help coordinate among existing funding, including development funding, climate change, and human rights programs aimed at post-accord territorial planning. Calls have centered on context sharing and opportunities for collaborative grantmaking.

Photos from the 2016 Annual Meeting. Photos by Jon Jensen, Gerald Reese, and Steven Whitney

CEFG Northeast Regional Meeting, Wind Farm Tour, World Conservation Congress. Photos by Meredith Hatfield, Paige Brown, and Brett Mitchell

HIGHLIGHTS OF CGBD PLANS FOR 2017

Annual Meeting Planning Committee (AMPC 2017)

Committee Co-Chairs: Barry Gold, Walton Family Foundation
Renu Saini, Helmsley Charitable Trust
Board Liaison: Lisa Weinstein, Turner Foundation

Situated on the Southern edge of the Colorado Plateau, Flagstaff, Arizona, is an hour and a half from the Grand Canyon. The themes arising from this powerful region will give members an unforgettable experience. AMPC 2017 is crafting an agenda tentatively titled, "Challenging Ourselves in Challenging Times" for June 19-22. Those attending this "right-sized" meeting will have a chance to walk riverbanks and canyon-lands, see town neighborhoods reborn from flood and fire, while questioning the lenses we use, and learning the friends we must make, so that conservation wins can be durable and new efforts doable.

Marine Conservation Program

Program Co-Chairs: Heather Ludemann, David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Christy Loper, Educational Foundation of America
Board Liaison: Imani Fairweather-Morrison, Oak Foundation

The Program will host its annual meeting in San Francisco, March 22-24. The agenda will cover a wide range of global conservation issues including: What's new in ocean philanthropy; the Ocean Portal Project (which had its roots in the 2016 Marines meeting); supporting science; responses to climate change; responding to a new Administration in Washington, DC; integrating human rights into marine conservation grantmaking; and the "Ocean to Table" trend.

The Program will conduct the 14th annual survey of marine conservation grantmaking and host webinars on issues in both domestic and international marine conservation.

Climate and Energy Funders Group (CEFG)

Program Co-Chairs: Amy Solomon, Jenifer Altman Foundation
Ed Miller, Joyce Foundation
Board Liaison: Jen Sokolove, Compton Foundation

The 2017 Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, April 12-14, and focus on federal efforts, momentum on clean energy, and progress in cities, states and regions. Communication and opportunities to work with the clean tech private sector around finance and policy will also be on the agenda.

CEFG will continue to support the Energy Efficiency Work Group and the Powering the Future Work Group. The latter serves funders zeroing in on issues ranging from energy efficiency to distributed solar in a transition to a new business model that incentivizes saving energy, using clean energy sources, and modernizing the grid. Potential additional work groups may be added on Carbon Pricing and Adaptation/Resilience. Staff will continue to pursue regional convenings and roundtables.

CEFG will finalize and release the 2015 Climate and Energy Survey. The survey offers a snapshot of relative funding and data collection dating back to 2002.

CEFG will also hold broad learning webinars and compile a monthly update of relevant articles and happenings in an online newsletter.

Land and Freshwater Conservation Program

Program Co-Chairs: Zoe Rothchild, Northwest Fund for the Environment
Gary Knoblock, S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
Board Liaison: Denise Joines, Wilburforce Foundation

Proceeding from two freshwater briefings in 2016, staff will continue to support coordination and collaboration with CGBD members and with other funder groups.

On March 1-2, the Program will hold its annual Washington, DC briefing. Following a shared session with EGA's biennial Federal Policy Briefing, Land and Freshwater grantmakers will continue the discussion of cooperative and collaborative projects to protect public and private lands and watersheds.

The Program will continue to coordinate collaborative efforts among grantmakers concerned with U.S. environmental and natural resource policy and management issues. The Program will continue to address threats to the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and other bedrock laws and regulations.

Conservation Science Program

Program Co-Chairs: Amanda Stanley, Wilburforce Foundation
Chad English, David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Board Liaison: Jorgen Thomsen, MacArthur Foundation

This crosscutting Program continues to keep science on the agenda of program meetings and the annual meeting. 2017 will also include a look at the publication of new findings in science, with an eye to acquainting funders of applicable research to enhance their work. The Program's Biocarbon Briefing of 2014 helped start a wave of foundation-funded research in bio-sequestration with efforts now being carried on in other funder convenings.

Gulf of California and Mexico Funders

Program Co-Chairs: Gaby Anaya, David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Sara Lowell, Marisla Foundation
Board Liaison: Sergio Knaebel, Sandler Foundation

Planning for the next meeting of the Gulf of California and Mexico Funders is already underway and the meeting is set to happen March 20-21 in San Francisco, linked to the Marine Conservation Program's annual meeting that follows immediately after.

Staff has organized a panel and will present on environmental defenders at the biennial international WINGS Forum in Mexico City in February in collaboration with the International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG).

The Program staff's experience on security issues, specifically for Mexico-based grantees and community groups will continue to be a program initiative as will building alliances with Mexican (non-GOC) funders, including calls and meetings relevant in Mexico.

Monthly webinars that cut across sectors will continue as will the weekly online roundup of news updates from a host of sources.

Funders of the Amazon Basin

Program Co-Chairs: Traci Romine, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Avecita Chicchón, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Board Liaison: Sam Passmore, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

As the Program begins its second year housed at the CGBD, plans are underway for an annual meeting in early May in Bogotá, Colombia. This may include a site visit to other parts of Colombia that are the focus of the group's first collaborative effort.

Participating funders share updates and plans monthly with webinars adding resource persons to the mix. A twice-monthly news update helps keep funders up to speed.

The Christensen Fund grantees at the World Conservation Congress and the Gulf of California Meeting. Photos by Jon Fujiwara and Lynn Lohr

International Connections Committee

Program Co-Chairs: Don Weeden, Weeden Foundation
Jaune Evans, Tamalpias Trust
Board Liaison: Jorgen Thomsen, MacArthur Foundation

The new, pooled fund to support Environmental Defenders launches in January. With administrative support from RSF Social Finance and the services of consultant, Alison Wright, and facilitation from CGBD, three member foundations are upping the investment with other foundations also considering contributing to heightening efforts on this critical issue.

Three webinars are planned for 2017 on subjects that appeal to international funders no matter what their specific geographies.

Horizon Committee

Program Co-Chairs: Lisa Weinstein, Turner Foundation
Sergio Knaebel, Sandler Foundation

This committee's function is to "look over the horizon" at issues that might not yet have landed in member portfolios but may soon affect their work.

A "basket" of ecology/economy/equity issues arose from the sessions and interactions at the 2016 Annual Members' Meeting in Vermont, and a sub-group is looking at taking up some of the first of these in a funder briefing tentatively scheduled for late March in Boston.

Information Technology and Communications

In 2017 CGBD will introduce the results of a brand refresh consultancy with Spitfire Communications and continue to streamline event registration.

Note from CGBD Intern

San Jose State University student Shayal Kumar spent the summer of 2016 as a CGBD intern. According to Shayal,

"College classes have exposed me to various laws that have emerged due to environmental issues, but my classes never taught me about the philanthropic side to the environmental movement. Being here at CGBD, I learned about the way that organizations are working together to make changes in the world. I learned about the amazing work that the different CGBD programs are doing and the many ways that they are benefiting the globe."

We will continue to follow and support Shayal's professional growth. We wish her good fortune as she applies to graduate school.

Present and immediate past board members

Photos by Gerald Reese and Jon Jensen

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MacArthur Foundation

Lisa Weinstein
Program Officer
Turner Foundation

Photo by Lynn Lohr

Annual Meeting Planning Committee for 2017
L to R: Chad English, Renu Saini, Shauna O'Donnell, Shelley Shreffler, Barry Gold, Charly Moore, Lisa Weinstein. Not pictured: Sacha Spector

See you in Flagstaff, AZ!
June 19-22, 2017

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